



Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

City of Manchester Environmental Protection Division
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www.manchesternh.gov/urbanponds

What You Can Do to Reduce Stormwater Runoff & Pollution

Vehicles and Equipment:

- Service your vehicles and other motorized equipment regularly to ensure they are not leaking fluids. Immediately clean up any leaked fluids.
- Wash your vehicles at a carwash that recycles and reuses wash water and uses non-toxic cleaners.
- If you wash your vehicles at home, park on a grass or pervious area, use non-toxic soap, and minimize water use by running the hose only when needed.

Lawn Care:

- Reduce the area of your lawn by planting low-maintenance, native groundcover, flowers, shrubs, and trees instead of conventional turf lawns. Native plants require less water, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, and trimming.
- Test your soil to see what it actually needs before applying fertilizer (contact your county UNH Cooperative Extension office for soil testing information). If fertilizer is necessary, use a slow-release type to avoid excess nutrient runoff.
- If you have an irrigation system, ensure that it has a rain or soil-moisture sensor to prevent watering during, or shortly following, rain events.
- Aerate your lawn to help the soil breathe and promote stronger root systems.
- Raise and keep your lawnmower deck at a height of 3" or more.
- Leave mulched grass clippings on your lawn to naturally fertilize and prevent evaporation to reduce the amount you need to water.

Landscaping:

- Rather than rinsing down your driveway with a hose, which may deliver pollutants to a waterbody, sweep it or use a shop vacuum to collect debris.
- Reduce your impervious surfaces. Choose natural native ground cover or materials that allow rain water to seep into the ground such as gravel, stepping stones, wood chips, or other porous surfaces.
- Direct runoff from impervious areas to pervious ones. For example, direct the downspout from your roof gutter away from your driveway and instead into a vegetated area such as a swale or garden.

Winter Maintenance:

- Reduce the amount of salt and salt-based commercial ice melting products used on your driveway and walkways. A thorough shoveling or sweeping of snow cover can reduce the need for salt. Use sand to provide traction when needed. Sweep up excess sand and salt as soon as the pavement dries.

Pet Waste:

- Pick up pet waste and place it in the trash. Never dispose of pet waste into storm drains as they often drain directly to waterbodies.